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School Committee Minutes 05/27/2008

Approved by School Committee June 10, 2008

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008
7:30 PM

Present:

School Committee Members: Joe Curran, Vice Chair, Joe Curro, Leba Heigham, Ronald Spangler, Secretary, Jeff Thielman and Sue Sheffler, Assistant Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie

Absent:

School Committee member Chair, Denise Burns, Superintendent, Nate Levenson
Chief Financial Officer, Sue Mazzarella, Interim Sp. Ed. Director, Gerald Kupperschmidt,
Student Representatives, Callie McHugh and Bobby McWatters

Mr. Curran, Chaired the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*Approval of minutes from School Committee Meeting May 13, 2008

*Approval of Warrant # 08157 dated May 13, 2008 in the amount of \$ 586,246.91

*Approval of Ida Robbins Scholarship recipients: two \$500.00 awards

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was voted to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote 6-0

RECOGNITION

Mr. Curran announced the Arlington Public Schools Distinguished Service Awards for 2007-2008 for staff was held on May 19, 2008 at the Ottoson Middle School. Superintendent Nate Levenson and Assistant Superintendent Kathy Bodie, and School Committee member Ms. Sue Sheffler Honored: Nanci Ortwein for 40 years of service, Alan Brown 35 years of service, Peter Rufo 30 years of service, and Barbara Flaherty 25 years of service.

The six students from Arlington High School who attended the National Science conference in Baltimore, MD over Memorial Day weekend are Alexandra Long, Katherine Smith, Donald Mitchell, Theodore Dokos, Jeffrey Lim, and Chris Lin.

Both boys and girls tennis teams, the boy's varsity baseball team and the girl's varsity lacrosse team are all in the state tournament this weekend.

Mr. Curro thanked Mr. Martinez for organizing the Veterans Memorial Day event on Friday May 22, 2008 at the Ottoson Middle School that he and Mr. Thielman attended.

GRADE 6 - 8 READING PLAN FOR FY 09

Dr. Judy Malone Neville, Mary Fischer, Melissa Brody, Anna Colozzo, Andrea Marquant and Pat Mahoney are members of the Reading Leadership Team and they presented on the school wide approach to improving reading at the Ottoson Middle School.

The Reading Leadership Team, which also includes Mary Cummings, Lindsay Hubbard, Barbara Weber and Cynthia Winfield are addressing an action plan which involves all members of the school in embedding literacy instruction across all grade levels and specific to history, science, mathematics, literature and other subject areas. With professional development and training the teachers will make this happen.

Committee members reiterated they would like to see the data next year to assess both students and teachers with the plan.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULING AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SELF REFLECTION

Dr. Judy Malone Neville and committee members who were present, Eric Saum, Pat Mahoney and Julia Keys spoke on the huge undertaking with the Middle School Scheduling and how this is a work in progress. The study group also included Chris Carlson, Chris Cooke, Joanne Holton, Nella LaRosa-Waters, Lisa Padalino, Jessica Powers, Maureen Preston, Alison Tikonoff and Mary Villano (AHS). They have studied other middle schools models and continue to be committed with the research of scheduling and to see how all concerns fit in at the Ottoson Middle School.

Dr. Malone Neville reassured the School Committee members that all state requirements would be met. She pointed out that the committee conducted a survey with the middle school staff and with the research they have done, some changes are in place for next year. This would include 6th graders having four clusters rather than five clusters, possibly incorporating a fourth lunch and keeping all current programs in place. Ms. Keyes noted due to contractual issues both the negotiation teams for the union and school committee should further discuss the contract relating to the teachers scheduling.

Dr. Malone Neville concurs with the current mission statement of the Ottoson Middle School published in the student's agenda books.

Mr. Curran inquired on a completion date with the middle school schedule, and was assured by Dr. Malone Neville that it will be available as soon as possible.

BRAINSTORMING ON QUESTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANT ANSWERED ON NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING TOPICS FOR June 10th. Ron Spangler will give an update on Math, Science, Technology and Engineering Study Group and will present on the School Facilities Working Group Report included in our packets and posted on the website.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Bodie presented the Superintendent's Report dated May 21, 2008 in Nate's absence. Ms. Bodie noted the DOE Mid-cycle summary of improvements, the energy efficiency at AHS and the organization of 7th grade teachers and the Harvard University Outreach Center, which hosted a meeting with a local muslim woman and spoke on the role of woman in Islam. Ms. Bodie also pointed out the Facing History, Ourselves Teaching Award went to AHS English Teacher, Leia Richardson, and the Staff Recognition awards will change to include professional status and ten or more years of service at Arlington Public Schools.

SCHOOL CHOICE VOTE

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was voted not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Inter-district School Choice Law (M.G.L. 76:12).

Vote: 6-0 unanimous

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Budget Subcommittee -Mr. Spangler presented his approved minutes from the Budget Subcommittee Meeting on April 22, 2008, which are posted to the website.

Policy & Procedures Subcommittee – Mr. Curran reported on his approved minutes from May 1, 2008 meeting, which are posted to the website.

District Accountability Subcommittee Mr. Curro presented draft Minutes from May 20, 2008 and will hold the next meeting on

Tuesday June 27, 2008 preceding the regular School Committee meeting.

Community Relations will meet on Monday June 2, 2008 at 7:00 pm and
Policy & Procedures will meet June 3, 2008 at 8:30 pm.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received: SFWG report, Stratton Scene, Metco Alert and Ponders Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sheffler asked about the Title IX report and Ms. Bodie will check with Superintendent Levenson on this. All committee members were encouraged to submit vacation schedules to the School Committee Office.

ADJOURN

**On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was motioned to
Adjourn at 9:26 pm.
Vote: 6-0 unanimous**

Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
School Committee